



Richland Baptist Association Newsletter

February 2023

From Your Director of Missions (D.O.M.):

There is LOVE in the air! February is often referred to as the month of love. Valentines' Day has been set aside to recognize the ones that you love. During this time, people will exchange valentines and candy. This is the world's way of illustrating your love toward someone.

God illustrated His LOVE for each of us by sending His ONLY SON to die on a cross to pay our sin debt that we owed. Reality is that we love people in our lives but few, if any, would give one of their children to die for the person's debt. That is exactly what God did for you and me. We love HIM because HE first loved us.

Let me ask you a question. If God loved you that much and you say that you love Him, shouldn't you and I be more committed to serving HIM. Jesus laid down His life for you. When you gave your life to Him, you surrendered your life to him. He is to be your first love. Have we and our church families forgotten our first love? Ponder that and search your heart individually and let us search our hearts collectively, being honest with ourselves, is Christ truly our first love. Celebrate your love for Christ every day, not just on February 14.

The Senior Saint Revival will be held this year starting on Monday the 20th of March and continue through Wednesday the 22nd of March. I want to encourage all of our Senior Saints to attend. We have scheduled different locations each day so that it will be easier for you to travel. I am excited about this event and with your support, it will be successful.

Thankful for you all!

Johnny

Upcoming Events for the Month of February 2023

- Feb 05: Church Planting, Evangelism and Missions Sunday
Feb 06-07: KidMin Retreat at First Baptist Natchitoches
Feb 07: Pastor's Conference at Big John's in Rayville
Feb 10-11: Pastor and Wives Retreat at Tall Timbers
Feb 17-19: Richland's Women's Retreat at Seeker Springs
Feb 19: Focus on WMU Sunday
Feb 23-25: Richland Men's Retreat at Seeker Springs
Feb 28: State WMU Council Meeting at Baptist Building

Upcoming Events for the Month of March 2023

- Mar 4: KIDS MIN EXPO (VBS), FBC Haughton 8AM-3PM, registration deadline February 28
Mar 5-12: Week of prayer for Annie Armstrong Offering
Mar 12: Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar 14: Pastor's Conference 11AM@Big John's Rayville
Mar 19: Church Planters Emphasis Day
Mar 20: Senior Saint Revival @ First Delhi 10:30 AM
Mar 21: Senior Saint Revival @ First Rayville 10:30 AM
Mar 22: Senior Saint Revival @ First Archibald 10:30 AM
Mar 25: Disaster Relief Training @ Temple Baptist Ruston
Mar 31-Apr 1: RA Congress @ Tall Timbers Grades 1-6

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Opportunities to Serve

- Pastor: Calvary Baptist Church
First Baptist Archibald
First Baptist Rayville
Newton Baptist
- Youth Minister: Alto Baptist
First Baptist Archibald
First Baptist Delhi
- Pianist: Zebedee Baptist (Volunteer)

**If you have a need in your church, please let us know and we will post it in the Monthly Newsletter.*

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Something to Think About...

There's a line of thought and colloquialism out there that goes something like:

"No one ever won a war by dying for their country. They won it by making the enemy die for his country."

In one of the more recent Star Wars films, the line went something like this:

"That's how we're gonna win. Not by fighting what we hate. But saving what we love."

Most of the fight or war today is one of thoughts and ideas, concepts and perceptions, and impressions and influencers. How do we accomplish either of the aforementioned in a war with battles that are so abstract by comparison?

Scripture was way ahead of its time in this regard. In a passage not usually thought of as prophetic but that now rings with the tinge of a prophetic voice:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places."

-Ephesians 6:12 (The Amplified Bible)

Here are a few of the "sounds of battles and skirmishes" I hear around me:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| "Sweat of Your Brow" Earnings | | Passive Income |
| Equality | VERSUS | Equity |
| Us | | Them |

It seems a majority of people/organizations/corporations today are expecting something for nothing. It feels much like the way the last servant perceived the master in **Luke 19:20-23,26**. Let it not be said of us that we expected something for nothing.

February brings other thoughts of those childhood days where we would decorate an old shoebox with paper hearts and doilies and crayons in anticipation of receiving little cards that sometimes came with little pieces of candy or little trinkets and small Cracker-Jack prize sized toys. The request for many of those cards was simply "Be My Valentine." It seems much of that fun and innocence is replaced by the world's cheap imitation of love in the form of lust, entitlement, and perversity.

Scripture records for us the first and best "Valentine" of all in **Romans 5:8**:

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

God patiently extends His invitation for us to "Be His Valentine". Make no mistake... This was not a "cheap grace". It cost Him everything, but like a valentine's gift we can do nothing to earn it just lovingly and devotedly receive it and give of ourselves in gratitude from that moment forward.

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